THE EIGHTH DAY.

23rd February 1915.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on Tuesday, the 23rd February 1915.

125. Text books and the Pulayas.

Mr. P. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that, ever since the introduction of the Education Code, the cost of education had considerably increased. One of the contributing causes was the large number of the Malayalam text-books that had to the studied in the classes and the high prices fixed for them. The Pulaya children found it almost impossible to purchase the books. They were also unable to cope with the children of other communities in their studies. In view of the backward condition of education among the Pulayas, the Member requested that special facilities should be afforded to them at least for some time. His proposals were the following :—

(1) That the course of studies for Pulaya boys should be lightened and special text-books, dealing more largely with agricultural and industrial subjects, should be arranged to be written, and the books should be supplied to the boys free.

(2) That night schools should be established in important centres, more especially in places where other schools did not exist, and instruction imparted to the Pulaya boys and girls.

(3) That fees should be wholly remitted in the case of the children of the community.

In that connection, the Member referred to the grant of something like a monopoly for the publication of text-books to two English companies, Messrs. Macmillan & Co., and Messrs. Longman & Co. The former firm had the sole right of publishing and selling all readers and the latter the text-books on History and Geography and also copy books. The firms were making lakhs of rupees by the contract. The printing and get-up of the books issued by the firms left much to be desired and the prices put on them were exhorbitant. The Government had even gone the length of establishing a paid agency at Kottayam for receiving and selling the books published by the Companies, and they also incurred a heavy expenditure by way of service stamps in sending the books to the several institutions. The grant of such a contract was wrong in principle and the gain to the Government was little or nothing. On the other hand, the inconveniences to the public were very great He therefore prayed that, if it was too late to cancel the contract, it should at least not be renewed on the expiry of the present term of ten years.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The suggestion regarding special text-books and the opening of night schools for the Pulayas will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for report.

126. The need for the encouragement of education among the Pariahs.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) said that the children of his community were not freely admitted into the schools although the Education Code did not prohibit such admissions. They were invariably refused admission on the ground of want of accommodation. That difficulty should be removed. He also requested that at least one student from his community in each taluk should be granted some scholarship and that deserving students should be gradually admitted into the Sirkar service also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

127. The need for improving eduction among the Mahomedans.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that, in the Sirkar service, there were only a few Mahomedans whose service was short and who occupied not very high positions therein. He requested that such of them as were capable and

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